sure was sad, though.

Johnny'd worked there forever and never figured out. It was a chain. Romeo was worse than Citizen Hearse. Every time he owed the Falls the Hydro man came over. He couldn't exactly turn them off, or take the water back. Just don't look in the basement.

Josef thought he looked hot in Raybans on a supercycle. At Humbug International the starry-eyed hipsters thought an old man like him should drive an Olds. The things that came out of their mouths....

Johnny said he was more concerned about what went into their assholes....

Warfarin came over as Josef rode off in a huff. It was just like an office. He thought he'd do up a pamphlet about how green he was. Doing business in a parking lot saved on A/C as well as parking....

He said he wanted to apologize to Johnny for having been such a complete asshole.

Johnny knew. It was always a set-up....

*****

On Thing Street Johnny met the dead with the living, waiting for the light. Doc Workman. Killuh Sharke. Charlie Elliot.

They objected to Edwardian Classicism....

The same bad architecture had offended everyone for a century....

Johnny wondered what more it took to be one of them himself, there was so little difference between them and us. Between them and Professor C. Lamprini Eel, none at all.

*****

Take correspondences to be complete:
neat jars of cooking oil, in a neat
translation into stoves, and so much heat;
expansion, and contraction of concrete;
your breathing, and the breathing of the street;
construction workers with an iron sheet.

*****

Only Deane didn't fit in....

*****

He'd wanted a manufacturing job. It was delusional thinking. He was forty, with bad knees, and factory jobs weren't so plentiful anymore. In reality, he'd been trapped, like everyone else. He'd been a student, an athlete, a treasury department analyst, an airplane